



FOR ALL
YOUR SAINTS
O Lord

A SERVICE FOR ALL SAINTS

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ABOUT THIS SERVICE

This service for All Saints Day provides an opportunity to name before God those who have died during the past year and allows time to name “personal saints”—past and present—who have been God’s special gifts. Parishioners give thanks to God for working in the lives of all his people to connect them to one another, to his glory.

This service contains: a complete order of service • a sermon • a children’s sermon • prayers • music for the accompanist

Everything you need for the service is contained on digital files with text of the entire service in .rtf (rich text format), newsletter/bulletin notices, hymns, visual media recommendations, contemporary music song suggestions and a PowerPoint document of the services with images and text (along with a copyright release) for use on screens.

FOR ALL YOUR SAINTS *O Lord*

A SERVICE FOR ALL SAINTS NEWSLETTER NOTICE

Join us for a special service for All Saints, “For All Your Saints, O Lord.” This service will provide an opportunity to name before God those who have died during the past year and allows time to name “personal saints”—past and present—who have been God’s special gifts. We will give thanks to God for working in the lives of all his people to connect them to one another, to his glory.

BULLETIN NOTICE

Welcome to this special service for All Saints, “For All Your Saints, O Lord.” This service provides an opportunity to name before God those who have died during the past year and allows time to name “personal saints”—past and present—who have been God’s special gifts. We will give thanks to God for working in the lives of all his people to connect them to one another, to his glory.

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COMPLETE SCRIPT FOR WORSHIP LEADERS

- If desired, an **Environmental Projection** is shown on a screen or on the walls of your worship space to set the tone for the service before the service begins or throughout the service at various points:

[shutterstock.com/image-photo/lit-candles-tealights-on-dark-background-155490305](https://www.shutterstock.com/image-photo/lit-candles-tealights-on-dark-background-155490305)

- This **Theme Verse** is read aloud by the pastor at the start of the service or is read silently by the congregation before the service begins:

*All your works shall give thanks to you,
O Lord, and all your saints shall bless you!*
Psalm 145:10

- A **Rite of Remembrance** is spoken responsively by the pastor and the congregation from 1 Peter 1, interspersed with verses sung by the congregation to the tune Sine Nomine 10 10 10 and alleluias, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

For all the saints who from their labors rest,
All who by faith before the world confessed,
Your name, O Jesus, be forever blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

You were their rock, their fortress, and their might;
You, Lord, their captain in the well-fought fight;
You, in the darkness drear their own true light. Alleluia! Alleluia!

P Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ!

C **By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,**

P And into an inheritance that is imperishable, undefiled and unfading, kept in heaven for you,

C **Even as we are being kept by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed on the Last Day.**

P Therefore, set all your hope on the grace that Jesus Christ will bring you when he is revealed.

C **As he who called us is holy, so we are to be holy ourselves in all our conduct.**

P For it is written, “You shall be holy, for I am holy.”

Oh, may your soldiers, faithful, true and bold,
Fight as the saints who nobly fought of old,
And win with them the victor’s crown of gold. Alleluia! Alleluia!

Oh, blest communion, fellowship divine,
We feebly struggle, they in glory shine;
Yet all are one within your great design. Alleluia! Alleluia!

P Let us pray: Almighty God, those who die in the Lord still live with you in joy and blessedness.

C **We give you thanks for the grace you have bestowed upon your servants who have finished their course in faith and now rest from their labors.**

(The names of those who have died in the past year are spoken before the Lord.)

P Into your hands we commend them, O merciful Savior, sheep of your own fold, lambs of your own flock, sinners of your own redeeming.

C **Rest eternal grant to them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them.**

The golden evening brightens in the west;
Soon, soon to faithful warriors comes their rest;
Sweet is the calm of paradise the blest. Alleluia! Alleluia!

From earth's wide bounds, from ocean's farthest coast
Through gates of pearl streams in the countless host,
Singing to Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. Alleluia! Alleluia!

- The **Prayer of the Day** is spoken by the pastor:

☐ O God, for saints below and saints above, you sent your Son to save them all. By the blood of the Lamb, we are made saints in your kingdom today and we are guided and blessed by the saints here on earth to glorify you in the work we do in your kingdom. May all the saints in light praise you until that day when we join them in lifting up hearts, hands and voices to you forevermore. Amen.

- The **Children's Sermon** is delivered by the pastor or other worship leader:

☐ Hello, boys and girls. Today we celebrate All Saints Day, with emphasis on the word ALL. Did you know that saints are not just people of God who have died, but people of God who are here on earth too. You and I are saints because we are forgiven and loved and made holy by Jesus, who died that we might live a new life.

What does it mean to live as a saint here on earth? It means forgiving others as Jesus forgave us. It means loving others as Jesus loved us. It means worshipping God and praying to him with holiness in our hearts in response to his great mercy toward us.

Do you have people in your life who have been loving and kind and forgiving to you? Can you name some of them? (*Allow the children to respond.*) Those are great answers. Thank those people today for being such wonderful saints and examples of faith for you in your life. And thank God for putting these people into your life.

This reminds me of a verse in the Bible when St. Paul said to his fellow preacher, Timothy: "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well" (2 Timothy 1:5). Paul saw the impact that Timothy's mother and grandmother had on him. They were saints on earth for Timothy.

The company of saints is just as active then as it is now. Look around at others are doing to help your friends and family in the faith and thank God for them too. When you receive help from the saints in your life, it is help that is coming from a long line of saints. We are now part of that chain of believers that is streaming toward heaven because of Jesus Christ. Give thanks to God for your place with all the saints. What a day that will be when we will all surround the throne of Jesus together. Until that time stay close to the saints that surround you now.

Let us pray: Thank you, dear Lord, for the blessing of the people of faith who are living saints among us. Let us keep learning from and living like them. Amen.

- The **First Lesson**, Revelation 14:6-7, 12-13, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ Then I saw another angel flying directly overhead, with an eternal gospel to proclaim to those who dwell on earth, to every nation and tribe and language and people. And he said with a loud voice, “Fear God and give him glory, because the hour of his judgment has come, and worship him who made heaven and earth, the sea and the springs of water.” And I heard a voice from heaven saying, “Write this: Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.” “Blessed indeed,” says the Spirit, “that they may rest from their labors, for their deeds follow them!” Then I looked, and behold, a white cloud, and seated on the cloud one like a son of man, with a golden crown on his head, and a sharp sickle in his hand.

- The **Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Diademata SMD:

To God on high be praise, whom saints of old believed,
And served in faith through darksome days, eternal life received.
With those who’ve gone before, in faith the way have trod,
Raise “Alleluias” to adore our great and saving God!

- The **Second Lesson**, Hebrews 4:9-16, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ So then, there remains a Sabbath rest for the people of God, for whoever has entered God’s rest has also rested from his works as God did from his. Let us therefore strive to enter that rest, so that no one may fall by the same sort of disobedience. For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart. And no creature is hidden from his sight, but all are naked and exposed to the eyes of him to whom we must give account. Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin. Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

- The **Beatitudes** is sung by the congregation to the tune Tallis’ Canon LM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

God’s store of blessing never ends; the blessing of the Lord descends:
The poor in spirit find God shares; the kingdom of the Lord is theirs!

To those who mourn God grants relief, the Lord's strong comfort for their grief.
How blest are they, the humble, meek; they shall be giv'n more than they seek.

The Lord almighty deigns to bless all those who thirst for righteousness,
Whose hunger is what God has willed. How blest are they; they shall be filled!

The merciful receive like grace. The pure in heart shall see God's face.
And those who strive to peace will be the children of God's family.

- The **Holy Gospel**, John 17:20-24, is spoken by the pastor or other worship leader:

Ⓟ “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one, just as you, Father, are in me, and I in you, that they also may be in us, so that the world may believe that you have sent me. The glory that you have given me I have given to them, that they may be one even as we are one, I in them and you in me, that they may become perfectly one, so that the world may know that you sent me and loved them even as you loved me. Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

- The **Response** is sung by the congregation to the tune Tallis' Canon LM, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

The Lord will bless, whate'er betide, in evil times stand by your side.
In heav'n at last is your reward, the bounteous blessing of the Lord!

- The **Sermon** is delivered by the pastor:

Ⓟ “For ALL the saints,” we sing, especially on an occasion like this that is set aside to remember ALL the saints.

When the word “saints” is mentioned, what do you think of? Most often, I suspect, we think first of those “famous” saints of the past, towering heroes of faith who have had stories told about them down through the ages, and churches named after them. Faithful witnesses to our Lord, many of whom offered the ultimate witness, the greatest sacrifice, in the giving of their lives in the service of their Lord.

They deserve to be remembered, and celebrated, those classic saints of old. And God deserves to be thanked for their outstanding lives and inspiring examples.

But while we remember such saints today, our primary focus in this All Saints service is going to be on what we might call our more “personal” saints, people of God who have had a direct

influence on us, personally, individually, recently, close up.

Who are your saints?

- Most of us, I suspect, begin with our own parents ... and grandparents ... and other family members who have had significant influence on our lives, people we remember vividly, and gratefully.
- Godparents, too, may fall into this category. Who are your saints?
- Among the gifts of God deserving thankful remembrance on a day like this might also be people like teachers. Do any stand out in your memory? And have you ever thanked God for them? From early school and Sunday school ... to grade school and high school ... instructors, professors ... maybe also counselors or advisers ... coaches. Did anybody make a major difference in your life?
- Any author, whose works particularly inspired you? Speakers? Musician? Artists?
- What about folks where you have worked? Employers, employees, fellow-workers ... customers, clients, students, patients ... doctors. Anyone who has particularly helped you along the way?
- Is there anyone in national life who has inspired you? Or in state government, or local, or even in the neighborhood? Volunteers ... fellow church members?

Sometimes we hear the term “patron saints”—and maybe that is what we are getting at today, in a way. Who are your patron saints, the ones who made a real difference in your life?

All of this discussion might lead to another way of looking at this business of saints. Can you trace back, in any kind of line or pattern, those people in history who were responsible for the message of God’s salvation in Jesus Christ being transmitted to you?

- One generation back may be easy to trace: parents, pastors, teachers ...
- But in the generations before that ... do you even know their names, their stories? Those who crossed oceans, and then the continent ... those who labored, toiled, learned, sacrificed, perhaps even gave their lives?

We are not reaching far back in history this All Saints Day, although we could. It’s probably another sermon, though another celebration, to concentrate on these “famous” saints of very long ago, the ones who got churches named after them. Yes, they are part of our heritage, without whom we would not be numbered among the saints today.

But for today, our concentration is closer to home, closer to now. Who are your personal saints? Take some time to think about it, both now and later in the day. If you had to fill a piece of paper with names or descriptions—whose would they be?

Don't just think about them ... give God thanks for them this day, for this is their day as well, a day to thank God for ALL the saints.

- The **Remembering Our Saints** is sung by the congregation to the tune O Store Gud 11 10 11 10 and refrain, or a selection from the contemporary music song suggestions list at the end of the music guide for this service can be sung instead:

For all the saints by whom we've been surrounded,
Grandparents, parents, siblings—family;
For God's strong Word, on which our faith is founded
Our thanks and praise are offered constantly.
For all the saints whose blessed lives we see,
For saints so near, our loved ones dear;
For all these saints, this precious company
To God on high, all glory be!

For those whose faithful words and actions taught us,
For those who guided, showed and led the way,
Whose deep concern, when we have wandered, sought us—
To God on high our gratitude we pay.
For all those saints, examples of God's care
To whom we turned, from whom we learned,
Of whose great gifts we too have had a share,
To God above our thankful prayer!

For countless saints throughout the ages serving
Their Lord and ours, who kept the faith aglow,
Who trusted Christ with attitude unswerving
That we, at length, our Savior too might know—
For all the saints, we lift our praise to God,
For saints of old, whose faith we hold;
For precious saints who once this way have trod,
Thanks be to God! Thanks be to God!